Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~converting inputted speech to~~inputting a text, comprising:

(a) a step ~~of entering~~for inputting a sentence by speech;

(b) a step ~~of recognizing a part of the entered speech, and determining~~for preparing word-string candidates ~~of word strings as a unit~~which consist of one to several words from the ~~recognized part of the entered~~inputted sentence by performing speech recognition processing;

(c) a step ~~of~~for displaying the prepared candidates; and

(d) a step ~~of allowing a user to select from~~for selecting from among the displayed candidates by a user,

wherein the candidate preparing step (b), the displaying step (c) and the selecting step (d) are repeated to recognize the sentence for each successive word-string, and

wherein ~~a remaining part of the entered speech is recognized by sequentially repeating~~ the ~~candidates~~ candidates ~~determining~~prepared in the candidate preparing step (b)~~, the displaying step (c), and the selecting step (d), in a unit of the word-string from a beginning of the entered speech~~ are obtained by repetition of an extension processing step (b1) for performing an extension of words, the extension processing step (b1) determining whether to link the words based on a word-based linkage probability obtained by a language model.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~converting inputted speech to~~inputting a text according to claim ~~2~~21, ~~wherein said~~the candidate ~~determining~~preparing step (b) further ~~having~~including a process to update ~~the~~an arrangement of the candidates ~~due~~according to an acoustic score after the repetition of the extension processing step (b1).

4. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~converting inputted speech to~~inputting a text according to claim ~~3~~1, wherein ~~said~~the repetition of the extension process step (b1) is ended by reaching of a number of ~~phrase~~the word-string candidates subjected to ~~said~~the extension process by a predetermined number as counted from a top rank in a language score.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ~~converting inputted speech to~~inputting a text, comprising:

an input section for ~~entering~~inputting a sentence by speech;

~~a speech~~an utterance pre-processing section for extracting a feature amount of the ~~entered~~speech inputted from ~~said~~the input section;

a word candidate preparing section for preparing ~~a~~following word-string candidates from a fixed word-string by using a language model;

a word-string preparing section for preparing a word-string candidates ~~as a unit~~which consists of one to several words ~~based on recognizing a part of the entered speech using~~from the extracted feature amount ~~corresponding to the part of the entered speech and from~~the word-string candidate by using the language model;

a display section for displaying the prepared word-string candidates;

an operating section for a user to select ~~one of~~ from among the word-string candidates being displayed~~, the selected word-string candidate forming the fixed word-string~~; and

a candidate-preparation instructing section for instructing ~~said~~the word candidate preparing section to prepare the following word candidate from the ~~fixed~~ word-string candidate selected by ~~said~~the operating section,

wherein ~~said~~the word-string ~~preparing section sequentially repeats preparation of said word-string~~ candidates ~~for a remaining part of the entered speech using said following word candidate, in a unit of the word-string from a beginning of the entered speech to recognize the remaining part of the entered speech~~prepared in the word-string preparing section are obtained by repetition of an extension process for performing an extension of words, the extension process determining whether to link the words based on a word-based linkage probability obtained by the language model.

6. - 8.   (Cancelled)

9.   (Currently Amended)   An apparatus for ~~converting inputted speech to~~inputting a text according to claim 5, wherein ~~said~~the apparatus is included in a cellular telephone.

10. - 12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Currently Amended) A ~~storage~~ computer-readable medium ~~tangibly embodying a~~ encoded with a data structure which causes a computer to perform a method for inputting a test comprising:~~program of instructions executable by mchine to perform method steps for converting inputted speech to text, said method repeating in order:~~

(a)   a step ~~of entering~~for inputting a sentence by speech;

(b)   a step ~~of recognizing a part of the entered speech, and determining~~for preparing word-string candidates ~~of word-strings as a unit~~which consist of one to

several words from the ~~recognized part of the entered speech~~inputted sentence by performing speech recognition processing;

(c)   a step ~~of~~for displaying the prepared candidates; and

(d)   a step ~~of allowing a user to select from~~for selecting from among the displayed candidates by a user; and

wherein the candidate preparing step (b), the displaying step (c) and the selecting step (d) are repeated to recognize the sentence for each successive word-string, and

wherein ~~a remaining part of the entered speech is recognized by sequentially repeating said~~the ~~candidate~~ candidates ~~determining~~prepared in the candidate preparing step (b)~~, said displaying step (c) and said selecting step (d),in a unit of the word-string from a beginning of the entered speech~~ are obtained by repetition of an extension processing step (b1) for performing an extension of words, the extension processing step (b1) determining whether to link the words based on a word-based linkage probability obtained by a language model.

14. - 16.   (Cancelled)

17.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product ~~tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by machine~~encoded with a data structure which causes a computer to perform a method ~~steps~~for ~~converting inputted speech to text, said method repeating in order~~inputting a text comprising:

(a)   a step ~~of entering~~for inputting a sentence by speech;

(b)   a step ~~of recognizing a part of the entered speech, and determining~~for preparing word-string candidates ~~of word-strings as a unit~~which consist of one to several words from the ~~recognized part of the entered~~inputted sentence by performing speech recognition processing;

(c)   a step ~~of~~for displaying the prepared candidates; and

(d)   a step ~~of allowing a user to select from~~for selecting from among the displayed candidates by a user;

wherein the candidate preparing step (b), the displaying step (c) and the selecting step (d) are repeated to recognize the sentence for each successive word-string, and

wherein ~~a remaining part of the entered speech is recognized by sequentially repeating said candidate determining~~the candidates prepared in the candidate preparing step (b)~~, said displaying step (c) and said selecting step (d), in a unit of the word-string from a beginning of the entered speech~~ are obtained by repetition of an extension processing step (b1) for performing an extension of words, the extension processing step (b1) determining whether to link the words based on a word-based linkage probability obtained by a language model.

18. - 22. (Cancelled)

23.   (New) A method for inputting a text according to claim 1, wherein, in the step of repeating the candidate preparing step (b), the displaying step (c) and the selecting step (d), when a word-string is selected in advance, the candidate preparing step (b) determines the word-string as the candidate based on either language information or acoustic information.

24.   (New) A method for inputting a text according to claim 1, wherein the extension processing step (b1) determines to link the words when a judgment is made for linking the words and not to link the words if the judgment is made for not linking the words.

25.   (New) A method for inputting a text according to claim 1, wherein the extension processing step (b1) prepares longer word-string candidates when it is determined to link the words than if it is determined not to link the words.

26.   (New) An apparatus for inputting a text according to claim 5, where the extension process determines to link the words when a judgment is made for linking the words and not to link the words if the judgment is made for not linking the words.

27.   (New) An apparatus for inputting a text according to claim 5, wherein the extension processing prepares longer word-string candidates when it is determined to link the words than if it is determined not to link the words.

28.   (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 13, wherein the extension processing step (b1) determines to link the words when a judgment is made for linking the words and not to link the words if the judgment is made for not linking the words.

29.   (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 13, wherein the extension processing step (b1) prepares longer word-string candidates when it is determined to link the words than if it is determined not to link the words.

30.   (New) A computer program product according to claim 17, wherein the extension processing step (b1) determines to link the words when a judgment is made for linking the words and not to link the words if the judgment is made for not linking the words.

31.   (New) A computer program product according to claim 17, wherein the extension processing step (b1) prepares longer word-string candidates when it is determined to link the words than if it is determined not to link the words.